Administration of Village Panchayets.

READ—

The report on the working of the Village Panchayets in the State during the year 1932-33, received with letter No. C. Per. A. 50—32-33, dated 21st—23rd December 1933, from the Revenue Commissioner in Mysore.

ORDER No. L. 6374-95—V. P. 45-33-2, DATED BANGALORE, THE 16—20TH FEBRUARY 1934.

Recorded.

2. *Constitution.*—The total number of Village Panchayets and Hamlets at the close of the year was 10,604 against 10,582 during the previous year, the increase being due to the splitting up of some of the old group panchayets during reconstitution in the Kolar, Tumkur, Kadur and Chitaldrug Districts. The total number of elected and nominated members on the last day of the year was 49,175 and 28,848, as against 49,330 and 28,699, respectively in the previous year.

3. *Meetings.*—There was no improvement during the year in regard to the number of meetings held, except for a slight increase in the Kolar, Shimoga and Kadur Districts. It is reported that while the generality of panchayets did not meet frequently enough, some did not meet at all. This is unsatisfactory. Government reiterate their remarks in this respect made in their reviews of past years and request the Revenue Commissioner to issue needful instructions with a view to see that the panchayets hold at least the prescribed number of meetings.

4. *Finance.*—There was at the beginning of the year a cash balance of Rs. 30,88,570 at the credit of the Village Panchayets. The income and expenditure during the year were Rs. 9,08,513 and Rs. 7,51,809, respectively, and the closing balance was Rs. 32,45,274. Though there was an increase in the receipts by Rs. 64,313, there was no tangible improvement in the recovery of arrears. Out of the total demand of Rs. 43,38,003, only a sum of Rs. 10,74,832 including remissions, was realised as against Rs. 9,04,967 in the previous year, leaving a balance of Rs. 32,63,121 as against Rs. 29,18,972 in the previous year. The arrears are the heaviest in the Mysore, Bangalore and Tumkur Districts, which are responsible for one-half of the outstanding amount. It is stated that action is being taken to write off the accounts the arrears which are time-barred This should be expedited, as no purpose is served by allowing such amounts to encumber the accounts and showing swollen figures as arrears. Government hope that with the disciplinary action proposed to be taken by the Revenue Commissioner under Section 54 (1) of the Village Panchayet Regulation to supersede defaulting panchayets, better results in collection work will be achieved during the current year.

The expenditure incurred during the year was Rs. 7,51,809 as against Rs. 7,25,222 in the preceding year. While conservancy, sanitation and water-supply received adequate attention as in previous years, greater activity was shown in regard to the execution of public works, such as panchayet halls, schools, buildings, drains, culverts, cattle-pounds, etc., the amount spent on them being Rs. 3,35,663 against Rs. 2,93,573 in the previous year. Street lighting in villages received greater attention either by the replacement of kerosene lights by petromax lamps or the installation of electric lights. Electric lights were installed in 25 villages and proposals for installing them in some more villages were under consideration.

With a view to utilise the large amount at the credit of Village Panchayets for works of public utility, such as the opening of new village roads, construction of bridges and causeways, the laying out of villages, etc., according to a settled programme, Government have recently sanctioned a scheme for the employment of a special staff of Panchayet Inspectors with technical experience for the execution of panchayet works.

5. *Activities of the Village Panchayets.*—The system of employing weekly communal labour for the execution of village works, continued in many villages, the value of labour so contributed during the year being Rs. 1,50,000. Several Village Panchayets rendered medical aid in their villages by distributing quinine and anti-malarial pills freely. A new District Board Dispensary was opened during the year

at Tayalur, the local and neighbouring Village Panchayets contributing Rs. 1,000 for initial expenditure, and Rs. 300 per year towards recurring charges. New Vaidyasalas were opened in a few villages and the Village Panchayets of Rampur and Kallur of Kortagere and Gubbi Taluks respectively, arranged for weekly visits of the Sub-Assistant Surgeons of Kortagere and Kadaba. Agricultural implements were purchased during the year by several Village Panchayets for being let out on hire to the villagers and ragi seed and manure were also purchased and distributed to the villagers. The system of entrusting to Village Panchayets the management of Muzrai institutions, village tanks and village forests was extended during the year. Improvement of village communications received special attention, as also the improvement of villages by laying out parks and extensions and approach roads and erection of ornamental gate pillars and fixing of name boards.

6. *General.*—A Rural Industries Section was organised to demonstrate rural and cottage industries during the All-India Exhibition held at Mysore, during the year 1932. A number of Baby Shows and Health Exhibitions were held in a number of places throughout the State, besides the exhibitions organised as adjuncts to the Conference held at Bowringpet, Malur and Krishnarajapete. The Baby Show at Hoskote was presided over by Sir Charles Todhunter, K.C.S.I., Private Secretary to His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore, and the combined Village and Taluk Conference at Bowringpet by the First Member of Council.

Government are glad to find that a large number of non-official gentlemen took active and keen interest in the working of the Village Panchayet Scheme and in movements of public utility during the year and wish to convey their thanks to these gentlemen. They are also glad to note that in spite of continued economic depression, a number of Village Panchayets worked satisfactorily and inaugurated improvements.

H. V. RAMASVAMI,
Secretary to Government,
General Department.

FINANCIAL SECRETARIAT

Quinquennial Valuation Report.

READ—

Correspondence ending with letter No. 13585, dated 19th January 1934, from the Secretary, Mysore State Life Insurance Committee, forwarding copy of the report received from the Actuary, Mr. James Bacon, on the valuation of the funds of the Public Branch for the quinquennium ending 30th June 1933, stating that the report discloses that the fund is in a very satisfactory condition, and recommending the grant of a bonus of Rs. 20 per thousand per annum of the sum assured as also an *interim* bonus at the same rate until the results of the next valuation are known or until the rate of interest falls below four per cent per annum as advised by the Actuary.

ORDER No. FL. 4907-9—G. F. 250-33-2, DATED BANGALORE, THE 20TH FEBRUARY 1934.

Government have perused the Acturial Report with interest and are pleased to sanction the recommendation of the Secretary referred to in the letter read above.

S. SHAMANNA,
Secretary to Government,
Financial Department.